



Testimony of
Melodie Peters, President
AFT Connecticut, AFL-CIO

Committee
March 15, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Committee. My name is Melodie Peters and I am President of AFT Connecticut, a union of nearly 29,000 public and private sector employees including state employees, nurses, healthcare workers, teachers and other school personnel.

I am here to testify on HB 6520 An Act Concerning Reporting by For-Profit Hospitals.

We strongly support the application of Section 1a § 19c-644 to the for profit acute care general and children's hospitals with the additional reporting requirement as described in raised bill HB 6520. These additional requirements allow us as a state, as consumers and as a work force to determine value and patient care versus profit.

I was serving on the Public Health Committee as Senate Vice Chair when we dealt with the first not for profit to for profit conversion (to date this is the only one) and we protected the public by putting safe guards in places, such as:

- The affected community will be assured of continued access to affordable care.
- The purchaser has made a commitment to provide healthcare to the uninsured and underinsured people.
- Safeguard procedures are in place to avoid conflicts of interest in patient referral
- And treatment would be expected if you presented in the emergency room

I would ask the committee to also recognize these very protections and apply them to conversions going forward. I believe it is a public necessity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your hard work on behalf of the public health and welfare.

Respectfully submitted,

Melodie Peters

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